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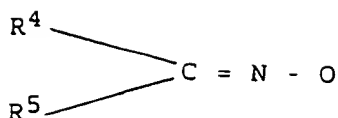
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formula



in which R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> may be the same or different and each represents a straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic hydrocarbon radical, preferably having up to 7 carbon atoms, more especially up to 4 carbon atoms, especially a methyl or ethyl group; an aromatic group, for example, a phenyl group; or an araliphatic group, for example, a benzyl group; or R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> together represent an alkylene group; or one of R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen.

6. A process as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the curable silicon-containing functional groups are trimethoxy silyl or methyl dimethoxysilyl groups.

7. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the polymer (A) has no silanol or amine functionality.

8. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the polymer (A) carries no functional groups other than the curable silicon-containing functional groups conferring latent reactivity.

9. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein at least a major proportion of the repeating units in the film-forming polymer (A) are other than siloxane repeating units.

10. A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the proportion of siloxane repeating units in the film-forming polymer (A) is not more than 25%, preferably not more than 10%, and more especially not more than 5%.

11. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the polymer (A) is substantially free from siloxane repeating units.

12. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the polymer (A) is derived from one or

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more monomers (A1) which carry curable silicon-containing functional groups and one or more monomers (A2) which do not carry such groups.

5 13. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the polymer (A) is derived from one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers.

14. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the Tg of the polymer (A) is above ambient temperature.

10 15. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the polymer (A) has a number-average molecular weight in the range of from 3 000 to 10 000.

15 16. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the unreacted curable silicon-containing functional groups provide a period of latent reactivity of 48 hours or more.

17. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is curable by virtue of silanol or silicon-alkoxy groups.

20 18. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is curable by virtue of curable functional groups selected from aliphatic, aromatic and araliphatic ether, ester and oxime groups, trialkoxysilyl or hydrosilyl groups.

25 19. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is a linear polymer.

30 20. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 19, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material comprises a curable polysiloxane.

35 21. A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the polysiloxane (B) has the structure  $R^3O(SiR^1R^2O)_nR^3$ , in which  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ , which may be the same or different on each silicon atom and on different silicon atoms in the polymer, each represents an alkyl group; an alkenyl group; a cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group; an aryl group;

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OR<sup>3</sup> represents a curable functional group in which R<sup>3</sup> represents a monovalent radical; and n represents a degree of polymerisation.

23. A process as claimed in claim 22, wherein the fluorine-containing polymer comprises a fluoroacrylate polymer.

25. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is applied in admixture or conjunction with a catalyst for the condensation curing reaction.

27. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 26, wherein the substrate has a worn or damaged anti-fouling coating thereon.

29. A process as claimed in claim 28, wherein the fouling environment is a marine environment.

30. A substrate in a fouling environment and bearing a coating and a cured fouling-inhibiting layer

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